

## Two killed in auto accident

**NEOLA --** A Tri-Center High School student and a recent graduate were killed Friday evening, Sept. 1 in an auto accident near Neola.

Melissa Manhart, 16, and Eric Benning, 19, both of Neola, were killed when their vehicle was struck broadside by a vehicle driven by Steve Collier, 35, Neola. The accident occurred at the intersection of 335th St. and Tyler Rd.

The Benning vehicle was pushed off the road into a steep ditch. Rescue squads from Persia, Neola, Minden and Harlan were called to the scene. Neola Fire and Rescue used the jaws of life to extricate both Benning and Manhart.

Manhart was pronounced dead at the scene. Benning was taken by life flight helicopter to an Omaha hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Collier was taken to Myrtue Memorial Hospital in Harlan with minor injuries.

No fault was assessed in the accident.